

the world financially literate. A sound grounding in economics is necessary for individuals to participate in an increasingly complex global economy. The need for innovative and effective methods for teaching about the global economy has never been greater, and Lisa effectively prepares Kokomo High School students for that environment. Lisa teaches senior-level Advanced Placement Macro- and Microeconomics, Economics, U.S. Government and Advanced Placement Government and Politics at Kokomo High School in my district.

Lisa's creative approach to the topic of economics tasks her students with running a mock corporation. The students develop written and graphic analyses of the effects of international political events, trade policies, and finance issues on their simulated corporations. The students then complete a mock stock market analysis based on their corporation's involvement in international trade and the effects of government policies. Finally, students participate in "International Day," which involves researching and preparing papers and presentations on a country and how government policies, cultural influences, and geography affect that Nation's economy.

Mr. Speaker and my esteemed colleagues, please join me in honoring and recognizing the service and commitment that Ms. Lisa Herman Ellison gives to her students on a daily basis. She is a fine example of the best the teaching profession has to offer.

#### TRIBUTE TO DONNA COVAIS

### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, we live in a nation in which the mass media are so obsessed with the antics of celebrities like Michael Jackson and Donald Trump that we often forget that courage and heroism are all around us, that for many of our friends and neighbors each day is a difficult but victorious struggle against tough conditions.

I want to talk today about Donna Covais, a Vermont woman who represents what is best in American daily life. Seven years ago, Donna began to lose her sight as a result of diabetic retinopathy. A year later, she was blind. Of course, she was afflicted by despair: who wouldn't be, in those conditions?

But she did not succumb to that despair. Formerly a florist, she began taking courses at the Community College of Vermont, and through the intercession of a local business, Gardener's Supply Company, she was encouraged to begin, even though blind, a garden. What a success her foray into gardening has been! Blindness has not impeded her from making the world bloom—or from playing a vital role in our social community.

Donna Covais has won a local prize for the best use of gardening space in Burlington. She has drawn upon her experience and made a gardening video for the Vermont Association for the Blind. She has traveled to Virginia to speak before the American Horticultural Therapy Association. Donna has recently completed her degree program in horticultural therapy at Johnson State College; she's even done a practicum in the world be-

yond the safe harbors of college classrooms, at Essex High School in Vermont. A wife, a mother, a gardener, Donna has not let physical disability stand in the way of living a rich and fulfilling life, and giving much to the community in which she lives.

I began by saying that many of our friends and neighbors struggle with adversity and triumph over it. Let me conclude by pointing out that not only Donna, but her husband Joe, has been the master of his fate. For Joe too has suffered first deteriorating vision and then blindness, as was the case with Donna. Joe too has had to remake his life, which he has done by earning first a B.A. in psychology and the then an M.A.: he is now teaching Psychology at the Community College of Vermont, and is interested in counseling disturbed adolescents. He will be particularly qualified to bring them proof that facing life with courage, determination, and an openness toward the future can really work. Donna and Joe Covais are examples, I believe, of what is best in America and the American spirit, and I commend them for the example they have provided to all of us.

#### COMMEMORATING THE CREATION OF THE MARLA BENNETT PEACE TILE GARDEN PROJECT

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, nearly two years ago, Marla Bennett, age 24, was one of the nine innocent victims of a terrorist attack at the Frank Sinatra cafeteria of the Hebrew University Mt. Scopus campus in Jerusalem. Ms. Bennett was a recent graduate of the University of California at Berkeley who was studying to get her Masters at Hebrew University. Marla's tragic and needless death brought the horror of the Israeli conflict home to the Berkeley community and on May 9, 2004, the Berkeley Hillel will unveil its permanent tribute to her with the dedication of the Marla Bennett Peace Tile Garden Project. This is a fitting tribute to a young lady whose life was ripped from those who loved her by a senseless act of terrorism.

During her academic career at UC Berkeley, Marla's face was a familiar one among the Jewish student population as well as the Jewish community of the Bay Area. She was an active student organizer, a Hebrew school teacher, and resident of the Bayit, the Jewish student cooperative of UC Berkeley. Marla's personality, her enthusiasm, and her zest for Judaism and the Jewish way of life made her well-known within her community and she was the first recipient of the Berkeley Hillel award, Hineni, given to the student who best exemplifies selfless devotion to the Jewish Community by answering "here I am" whenever a task needs to be completed.

Marla's tragic death had a profound effect on the Jewish Community at Berkeley and led to many inspiring endeavors in honor of Marla. The Rosh Chodesh Women's Group at the Berkeley Hillel was revived to honor her memory and scholarship funds in Marla's name for students seeking to study Jewish education in Israel were established. As wonderful as these tributes were, Dana Blecher, the Cultural Arts

and Educational Programs Coordinator, for Berkeley's Hillel wanted to create a permanent memorial to this extraordinary individual who blessed our world for too short a time. Ms. Blecher envisioned the unused backyard of the Berkeley Hillel as an ideal space to construct a lasting tribute to the memory of Marla Bennett.

During the past year, Ms. Blecher has been instrumental in the creation of the Marla Bennett Peace Tile Garden Project and I want to publicly commend her for incorporating so many aspects of the Berkeley and Bay Area community into the project. For example, she collaborated with Bay Area artist Jodi Gladstone, and invited the students of Berkeley Hillel to contribute sketches, poetry, and memories of Marla to be the foundation of the inspirational material for the creation and design of a tile project. Keeping with our Bay Area sensibilities, Dana contacted Jonathan Pilch, a student instructor in the subject of organic farming, and a UC Berkeley student, to prepare, recommend, and supervise the formation of the garden.

Mr. Speaker, friends of Marla's, as well as students who never had the opportunity to meet her, have come from across the country to help build the Marla Bennett Peace Tile Garden Project. They all came to Berkeley to create a lasting tribute to a person whose life touched so many and was tragically cut short. This new space at the Berkeley Hillel, while dedicated to Marla, also will be presented in the name of peace and hope that there will be a time in the future of Israel when violence does not play such a tragic and terrifying role in the history of the Jewish state.

The Marla Bennett Tile Garden will serve as a place for recollection and reflection, an appropriate memorial to a person who took investigating her Judaism very seriously. As the expression says, "to live in the hearts of those who love you is to never die," and this wonderful memorial will allow the memory of Marla to continue to live on so that in the words of the Executive Director of Berkeley Hillel, Adam Weisberg, "Her name will be for a blessing."

#### HONORING 2004 RN OF THE YEAR AWARD RECIPIENT MARY FARRELL

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Farrell on the occasion of receiving the Central Valley Coalition of Nursing Organizations' 2004 RN of the Year Award for Outstanding Administration. A banquet honoring her and three other award winners will be held Friday, May 7th at the Radisson Hotel in Fresno, California.

Mary Farrell has been a strong leader in the health care community. She is currently the Vice President of Patient Care Services at Madera Community Hospital. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Management and is also a Registered Nurse. In her present position, all nursing and allied health care departments report directly to her. Mary always focuses on safe and professional health care delivery. Patients and families appreciate her open and playful way of taking chaos and replacing it with calmness and logical problem solving.



Ms. Farrell uses innovative strategies for workforce development and promotion of nursing. Faced with an increasing demand and a limited supply of nurses, she established partnerships with the local high school and higher education to train new nurses. In 2002, Mary initiated the MCH Nursing Scholarship Program, funded by MCH employees, which has provided over \$9,000 for local nursing students. She has been honored by various organizations for her leadership, and has formed partnerships with many organizations to keep the best and brightest nurses in their communities. Her dedication to nursing is an inspiration to nursing leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary Farrell for her excellence in the field of Outstanding Administration. I invite my colleagues in wishing Mary many years of continued success.

ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE  
NATIONAL TEACHER DAY

**HON. ANÍBAL ACEVEDO-VILÁ**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. ACEVEDO-VILÁ. Mr. Speaker, as Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico, I am proud to recognize the significance of "National Teacher Day". Teachers are a valuable source of morals, veracity and integrity for millions of students in Puerto Rico and the United States. The Congress of the United States and various teachers' organizations have recognized their devotion and commitment through "National Teachers Day," since the 1940's.

The work that teachers perform every single day is worthy of such recognition. Unfortunately, violence in schools has become a common denominator affecting teachers and students alike. Earlier this year in Puerto Rico, we have seen students and teachers attacked or killed by students in their classrooms, turning schools into a battle field where teachers and students are losing their lives. Episodes of this nature demean and undermine this remarkable profession, and erode the spirit of education.

Teachers are a testament of perseverance in every student. As Members of Congress, we must focus on the contributions that every single teacher makes to the development of a healthy, well-educated and cultured youth in our society. The issues affecting our teachers challenge all of us to contemplate what we genuinely value in our society.

Looking into the future of our communities in Puerto Rico, the role of a teacher in our children's lives becomes a necessity more than a luxury. The progress of a population is determined by the skills and the preparation that an individual acquires and develops during the early learning phases, phases that are often initiated by teachers.

Teachers are more than authority figures inside a classroom full of students—they are heroes in our society. Their love for their work should be awarded and respected everyday, "National Teacher Day" is a symbolic indication of the importance and magnitude of their profession in creating the future leaders of our society. As a proud Puerto Rican, I salute and thank the teachers in Puerto Rico and in the

United States for their remarkable job, and I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the "National Teacher Day."

TRIBUTE TO NEIL DE KOKER, IN  
HONOR OF EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Neil De Koker, a giant in the automotive supply industry and the recipient of the 2004 Executive Leadership Award from the Marketing & Sales Executives of Detroit.

Known as a man who can turn a concept into reality, Neil founded the Original Equipment Suppliers Association, a strategic forum for automotive suppliers. With 353 members and global sales exceeding \$300 billion worth of components, modules, systems, materials, and equipment used by the original equipment automotive industry, the OESA has provided information for over 4800 customers since its founding in August of 1998.

A veteran auto industry executive, Neil's extraordinary skills as a manager creating consensus and delivering results, has led him to being recognized around the world as a key spokesman for the automotive supplier industry in North America.

Neil's career, from furthering the growth and welfare of OESA members, to his 39 years in the automotive field, including playing a key part in establishing the Saturn Corporation, has vastly improved the automotive industry, the outlook of this key economic sector and the people who work within it.

I am honored today to recognize Neil De Koker for his outstanding achievements and the undeniably positive impact he has had upon our State and Nation. He is truly an invaluable citizen.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. COAST GUARD  
PETTY OFFICER THIRD CLASS  
NATHAN B. BRUCKENTHAL

**HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer Third Class Nathan B. Bruckenthal, who was killed on April 24th in a suicide attack in the northern Arabian Gulf. He is a true hero—a man who served his country and did the nation's work in the most dangerous part of the world. Our entire community grieves his loss.

Petty Officer Bruckenthal, 24, along U.S. Navy Petty Officer First Class Michael J. Pemaselli, 27, and U.S. Navy Petty Officer Second Class Christopher E. Watts, 28, boarded a small boat that approached the Khawr Al Amaya Oil Terminal in the northern Arabian Gulf in order to inspect it. As it turns out, the boat was carrying bombs and exploded, killing all three young men.

Petty Officer Bruckenthal was stationed at Air Station Miami at the Opa Locka Airport in

my Congressional district prior to his deployment in Iraq. He and his wife had their home together in nearby Ft. Lauderdale.

Our brave men and women in the U.S. Coast Guard have long fought alongside our other members of the U.S. Armed Forces, but Petty Officer Bruckenthal's death is the first combat death of a member of the Coast Guard since the Vietnam War. He will be buried on May 7th at Arlington National Cemetery.

My heartfelt condolences go out to the family and friends of Petty Officer Bruckenthal and those of the other young men who were mortally wounded in this terrorist assault. They gave the ultimate sacrifice to their country, and we will never forget them.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DAVE WELDON**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my vote on H.R. 4181 was not recorded. I would ask that the RECORD reflect that as a cosponsor of H.R. 4181 the record should reflect that I should have been recorded as voting "aye" on final passage.

CONGRATULATING RALPH AND  
CATHERINE BROSI ON THEIR  
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 4, 2004*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ralph and Catherine Brosi as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. A party is being held in their honor on May 2, 2004 at the Dante Club in Fresno, California.

Ralph and Catherine Brosi were married on May 2, 1954 at Our Lady of Victory Church in Fresno, California. They are both natives of Fresno, California and currently make their home in Clovis, California. Ralph graduated from Clovis High School in 1946 and went on to serve in the United States Army from 1952–1954. Catherine graduated from Edison High School in 1945, and was later employed as a medical secretary. Ralph and Catherine started a successful farming and ranching business, Brosi's Poultry Farm.

Ralph and Catherine have always set a strong example of family values for their children. Their son, Robert, was born in 1955 and is currently a dentist practicing in Oakhurst, California. In 1956 their daughter, Karen, was born. Karen currently works as a Financial Planner in Mountain View, California. They enjoy spending time with their three grandchildren, Deena, Jenna, and Cayla.

The Brosi's are currently retired, but have been involved with various volunteer organizations in their community throughout the years. Ralph is a member of the California Water Fowlers Association, the Sons of Italy, Ducks Unlimited and has served as the President of the Clovis 20/30 Club. Catherine is an active member of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church.